Performance Season
Friday 8 June, 7pm
Saturday 9 June, 7pm
Tuesday 12 June, 1pm
Tuesday 12 June, 7pm
Wednesday 13 June, 7pm

Venue
Performance Space 2,
VCA School of Performing Arts,
28 Dodds Street, Southbank

Duration
100 minutes, no interval

Admission
$12, bookings are essential

Note
This performance contains adult themes and haze/smoke effects.

Contemporary Plays Season 2012

Ship of Fools
Written by Andrew Bovell and Whistling in The Theatre
Directed by Jane Woollard

Presented by Acting Company 2013 and Production students
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**Cover Image Credit:**

Image courtesy of Contemporary Plays project teams.
Welcome to the School of Performing Arts, at the VCA. A place of vision, investigation and discovery. The School encompasses the departments of Dance, Production and Theatre, and is committed to offering intensive training for emerging artists, through excellent teaching and research practice within a vibrant, productive and collaborative atmosphere. Each department has its own unique training programs, which honour both contemporary and traditional developments in the performing arts.

Students train to be dancers, choreographers, theatre makers, animateurs, directors, actors, stage managers, production artists and technicians. Our teachers and guest directors, designers and choreographers are practising artists, selected for their commitment to learning, a belief in the individual, and a vision for the future. The School’s aim is always to present work that is both challenging and inspiring to our audiences and many of our graduates are making a significant contribution to the profession at an international and national level.

We hope you enjoy the Season and look forward to seeing you again.

– Geraldine Cook, Head/School of Performing Arts
Welcome to the 2012 Contemporary Plays Season, presented by the School of Performing Arts at the VCA. The project is performed by second year Actors in collaboration with Production students. The project you are about to witness is one of a number of projects that we entitle ‘teaching text projects’. These performances are an integral part of the training itself: the area of work within the course which focuses on the detailed investigation of theatre texts. They are an opportunity to integrate public performance into the training of the actors and to begin to introduce the actors to the kinds of models and processes they may experience in professional theatre.

In addition to their theatre making classes and projects, the key teaching text projects for these theatre students in their first year have included scenes from The Orestia, The Cherry Orchard by Chekhov and a scene study using The Doll Trilogy by Ray Lawler. Now in their second year, these students have recently completed an American scene study, and in this project, engage with the longer form of an Australian contemporary text with a focus on character and plot. As actors in a full-length performance they learn how to tune into the progress of the text and its rhythms, and to make choices about their role/s in transmission of the dramatic intention of the whole play. The students are required to engage with professional directors who bring an extraordinary depth of skill and experience to the project. In this season, the actors will have worked, for the first time, in ways that differ from group to group depending upon both the demands of the play and the working processes of the director.

Next semester these students will have the opportunity to work with Postgraduate Directors on a One Act Play and will perform scene studies from Shakespeare and from contemporary writers. In their third year, they will work on a full-length Shakespeare play, a devised work and several other projects with full public performance seasons.
The plays chosen this year are all Australian contemporary classics. Each of these plays seeks to expose the complexities of the Australian experience in various contexts from the outback to the suburbs. Each has a particularly Aussie feel and sound to it, yet each investigates our cultural identity and colonial European heritage from different perspectives and from various periods in our young history. The quality of the writing in these plays demands from the actors and creative teams an enormous attention to detail and a commitment to authenticity in order to offer the audience fresh and surprising insights into our cultural landscape and psyche.

I hope you enjoy the work of these students both on stage and in design and production roles. My thanks to you for your support of them and also to the academic and professional staff at the VCA, and lastly but by no means least, to the three directors, Jane Woollard, Paola Unger and Naomi Edwards, who have brought such wonderful commitment and talent to the work.

– Rinske Ginsberg, Lecturer/Theatre (Movement)

The training programs at the VCA are by no means an “ordinary” university course. They are immersive, fiercely collaborative and personally and professionally challenging for everyone involved. Working with Australian scripts provides valuable opportunities for students to engage with the history and voice of Australian theatre, and stories told by Australian playwrights about the experience of being Australian.

The subject matter and practical demands of these productions serve to mirror the sort of theatre that many graduates aspire to create in future careers. Theatre made with limitations but immense amounts of energy and imagination. Emerging independent Melbourne theatre companies like The Hayloft Project and Four Larks Theatre are heavily populated with VCA graduates working to develop their theatrical voice.

The production teams charged with realising these projects are drawn from second and third year students across the production disciplines of Design Realisation, Theatre Technology and Management. These teams of adaptable, pragmatic, committed, independent artists have combined the perceived limitations of small venues and limited budgets with a wealth of energy, commitment and imagination. The remarkable production values you see on stage are the result a pragmatic interrogation and refining of ideas between all involved.

– Mark Postlethwaite, Lecturer/Production (Props and Scenery)
Ship of Fools was created in the mid 1980s - the result of a dynamic collaborative process. Playwright Andrew Bovell worked with director Robert Draffin and fabled company Whistling in the Theatre to explore the figure of the outcast in contemporary and medieval society.

The spirit of the play, its rich metaphors and images, and the poetic slippage between worlds, has fuelled our own collaborative process. As part of our investigation of the play’s themes, we went back to The Ship of Fools, a 1517 text by Alexander Barclay. We have immersed ourselves in the strange, foolish world of 15th century painter Hieronymous Bosch to create a gestural vocabulary of medieval ‘otherness’.

– Jane Woollard, Guest Director
Contemporary Plays  
Season 2012

Program

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Ship of Fools  
Directed by Jane Woollard

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Cast
Simon/The Fool - Nicholas Kato
Mac/The Mayor - Jackson Trickett
Ivan/Hans Worst/Bishop - Alistair Frearson
Andrew/Merchant - Oliver Coleman
Louise/Madam Van Ek/Woman - Laura Jane Turner
Rachel/Mother Superior/Humanitarian - Rani Pramesti
Sunny/Soldier/Anna Lundstroff/Gotiere - Emma Smith
Tess/Margery Clermont/ Mayoress/Stutterer - Hayley Barker
DSS Officer/Convinso - Shelli Grant

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Set Designer/Builders - Nicholas MacKinnon
Costume Designer/Maker - Holly Patterson
Lighting Designer/Operator - James Lipari
Stage Manager - Lauren Box
Assistant Stage Manager - Cameron Stuart
Set Assistant - Katrina Day
Head Electrician - Kate Kelly

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Crew Coordinator - Kate Kelly
Roving Technical Crew - Aaron Cananzi, Kate Kelly and Shane Thompson
First Year Roving Crew - Siobhain Beaney, Aaron Garcia and Leslie Ding

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Production Manager - David Lang
Set and Prop Builder - Colin Orchard

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Acknowledgements

Thank you to Collin James, Ellen Strasser, The Crewing company of the Plague Dancers at the Malthouse Theatre.

A special thank you to the MTC Props Department
Jane Woollard is a director, playwright, dramaturg and teacher. Since her work in student theatre at Melbourne University in the early 1980s, and graduating from the VCA Directors Course in 1987, Jane has directed productions for La Mama, St Martins Youth Arts Centre, Barnstorm Theatre, RMIT Union Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, the Victorian Arts Centre, Theatre of Spheres, Mainstreet Theatre SA and Here Theatre.


In 2009 Jane wrote and directed Prophet and Loss, a contemporary music theatre work exploring stories of those bereaved by work-related death. In 2010 Jane directed The Seagull by Chekhov and in 2011 The Bluebird by Maeterlinck for La Trobe Theatre and Drama Department.
James Lipari is a third year Bachelor of Production student majoring in Lighting. James joined VCA unsure the direction to take in theatre and was originally considering Stage Management, however quickly entered into the field of Lighting Design. His VCA credits include Music Theatre’s New Short Works, *I am Familiar; To Belong, To Displace* for the School of Performing Arts, and *Student Works 2011*, the dance student work season. He has recently finished a secondment on the Australian Ballet’s *Infinity*.

Lauren’s passion for theatre sparked at the age of 11 when she joined MBCTA youth theatre, where she was involved in acting, dancing and musical theatre classes for 10 years. In 2009 she completed a Diploma of Live Production, Theatre and Events at Box Hill Institute of Tafe. She was awarded the Beleura John Tallis Scholarship at VCA in 2010. Lauren has volunteered in various roles on an assortment of shows including *Footloose* and *High School Musical* (Whitehorse Musical Theatre Company), *Rent* (Fab Nobs), *Cabaret* and *13* (BuST Co), *Hats Off 2009* and *2010*, State School Spectacular 2011, as well as returning to her high school, Rowville Secondary College, to stage manage their yearly productions: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Grease* and *Fame!* She has also recently worked as a Stage Manager on a performance of *The Man in Black*. 
Currently in his third year of a Bachelor of Production, the VCA is Nicholas’s first foray into the world of costume and set design after becoming involved with amateur theatre during high school. Work on previous VCA productions includes Unruly Night, choreographed by Wendy Houston, The Hollow, directed by Daniel Schlusser, VCA Music Theatre’s City of Angels, directed by Gary Young and the role of Costume Designer/Maker on the contemporary dance work More Than Matter, choreographed by Benjamin Hancock, which has also been selected to play at Singapore’s festival in June of 2012.
Dean/Faculty of VCA and MCM
Director/Victorian College of the Arts
Head/School of Performing Arts
Manager/School of Performing Arts
Lecturer/Production (Audio)
Lecturer/Postgraduate Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Production (Design)
Snr Lecturer/Theatre (Voice)
Snr Lecturer/UG Coordinator/Theatre (Acting)
Honorary (Senior Fellow)
Lecturer/Theatre (Physical Performance)
Snr Lecturer/Postgraduate Coordinator/Dance
Assoc Prof/Undergraduate Coordinator/Dance
Honorary (Professorial Fellow)
Lecturer/Production (Lighting)
Snr Lecturer/Postgraduate Coordinator/Performing Arts
Snr Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Production (Props and Scenery)
Lecturer/Production (Stage Management)
Lecturer/Production (Postgraduate Design)
Lecturer/Theatremaking
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Voice)
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Dance
Snr Lecturer/UG Coordinator/Production (Costume)
Technical/Facilities Officer
Snr Technical Officer
Administrative Officer
Projects Officer
Stagecraft Workshop Coordinator
Production Manager
Musician
Wardrobe Officer
Foundations Coordinator
Stores Officer

Professor Barry Conyngham
Professor Su Baker
Geraldine Cook
Sara Koller
Dr Roger Alsop
Dr Don Asker
Melanie Beddie
Meredith Blackburn
Greg Clarke
Geraldine Cook
Tanya Gerstle
Max Gillies AM
Rinske Ginsberg
Helen Herbertson
Jenny Kinder
Prof Shirley McKechnie OAM FAHA
Joseph Mercurio
Dr Paul Monaghan
Richard Murphet
Mark Postlethwaite
Annie Reid
Leon Salom
Leisa Shelton
Anna Smith
Tony Smith
Nina Veretennikova
Robert Walton
Jo White
Kym Williams
Naomi Adams
Monique Aucher
Annie Dolan
Bianca Durrant
Kate Elliott
Darren Golding
John Grayling
Georgia Johnson
Lorraine Little
Duraan Reid